

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Akira KONDOU et al.  
Title: STEERING SHAFT FOR ENERGY ABSORBING STEERING COLUMN AND  
MANUFACTURING METHOD THEREOF  
Appl. No.: Unassigned  
Filing Date: 12/21/2001  
Examiner: Unassigned  
Art Unit: Unassigned

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10/023795  
12/21/01

#3  
P. Allen  
02/04/02

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 CFR § 1.56**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO-1449 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.56. A copy of each listed document is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.97 and § 1.98.

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

**TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE**

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR § 1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

**RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT**

The relevance of Document A3 is described in the present specification.

Document A7 is a foreign counterpart of Document A1, and Document A8 is a foreign counterpart of Document A2.

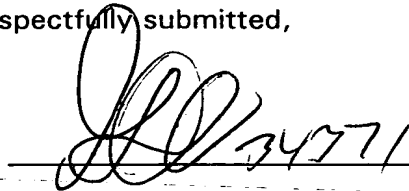
English translations of the foreign language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English abstracts, which discuss the relevance of the foreign language documents, are attached.

Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO-1449 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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Date: December 21, 2001

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